

exploring the reasons and justifications that led to such a dramatic and historic move. Executive Producer Motesuma Esparza and director Edward James Olmos have captured the tensions and regretful reality of life for Mexican American students in the public high school system of East Los Angeles. The movie honors the memory of the struggles and obstacles to empowerment that those before us fought so hard to eradicate. Today, we pay tribute to Esparza, Olmos, HBO Films and all those who played a part in bringing this snapshot of history to life.

Mr. Speaker, only by dedicating ourselves to remembering how we compromised the civil rights and educational achievement of Latinos in the past can we renew our resolve to face the current attacks that seek to derail the future of our community. In 1968, the Mexican American community sent an unequivocal message that transcended the education system that sought to suppress them: when equality and opportunity are denied, our community will fight back to defend what is right. Through "Walkout", we celebrate this resolve.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES BOARD

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation authorizing \$3 million annually over the next ten years for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board. Additionally, my legislation requires the President to include a line item request in his budget proposal every year. I am pleased to be introducing this bill with the support of the Democratic Members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In December 2004, President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act into law. Included in this bill was language establishing the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board, a cornerstone recommendation of the 9-11 Commission. The Commission understood that in the emotional aftermath of September 11th, it was important to provide objective oversight of the protection of our cherished civil liberties.

This oversight is the main purpose of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board. The Board has been established to review proposed regulations and Executive Branch policies' effects on civil liberties, particularly related to the War on Terrorism.

Many saw the creation of this board as a promising step in protecting us from terrorism while maintaining the civil rights of everyone. However, more than a year after the legislation was signed into law, the Board has yet to hold its first meeting. As a matter of fact, the first Board members were only approved a year ago. Even more, because the Board is housed within the Office of the President and operates at the behest of the Administration, Congress itself is not able to appropriate \$1 for its operation because we never authorized any spending. With no substantive work performed by the Board to date, it's as though the Board only exists in the spirit of the law—not

in its letter. If that was Congress's true intent, then the Board might as well only exist on paper, or as an illusion in our minds. But it wasn't, and that's why this legislation is absolutely necessary.

Realize, Mr. Speaker, the most disturbing lack of support for the Board has come from the Administration itself. In the President's budget request for fiscal years 2005 through 2007 and the requests for supplemental funding, there have been no funds requested specifically for Board operations. Zero! Without this funding, the Board cannot even buy a pencil much less develop a plan to accomplish its tasks.

The Administration's failure to fund the office, coupled with the inactivity of the Board, leads one to question the commitment of the Administration to ensuring the protection of privacy and civil liberties. Does the Administration welcome an objective review on civil rights issues regarding its terrorism policies or would it rather govern in a vacuum? Would the President rather operate behind closed doors without questions from, or accountability to, any oversight board? Unchecked policies shrouded in secrecy will do nothing to help this country maintain checks and balances between safety and civil rights.

The bill I am introducing authorizes \$3 million in annual funding for the Board so that Congress can do what the President has failed to do. This funding level will ensure that adequate resources are available for sufficient staff and resources to support critical statutorily mandated activities of the Board. This includes reviewing proposed regulations and policies related to countering terrorism, the implementation of laws, regulations and policies related to countering terrorism, and advising the President and department heads on matters impacting privacy and civil liberties.

It's time that we demand that the Administration stop dragging its feet on funding the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board. If civil liberties are of any concern to this body and the President then there is no reason to stall the progress of the Board by denying it the money it needs to get started. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to fully fund the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board so that it can get about the business of protecting the liberties and security of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE BECKER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor George Becker, a great union leader, great American, and President Emeritus of the United Steelworkers (USW). Not only has George been a dear friend of mine, but to working men and women everywhere. They owe him a debt of gratitude for the years of service he has given not only to the labor movement, but to his country.

Retirement as the USW's International Union President in 2001 did not change his goals nor dim his vision and resolve. He continued his advocacy during his service on the U.S. Trade Deficit Review Commission. He is still fighting in his capacity as Commissioner on the U.S. China Economic and Security Re-

view Commission to give a voice to the concerns of workers in the industries affected by our exploding trade deficit with China.

I am sure my colleagues on the Congressional Steel Caucus will join me in expressing our good fortune to have worked in close association with a man who warned us years ahead of time that the American steel industry was on the brink of collapse after the Asian financial crisis in 1998. It was George Becker's persistence and foresight that created the joint union-industry alliance "Stand Up for Steel" that fought for fair steel trade policies before Congress and two Administrations to bring the relief necessary for the U.S. steel industry to restructure and consolidate.

I remember standing with USW President Becker among hundreds of steelworkers on Capitol Hill who helped win passage of H.R. 975 in the Spring of 1999, a bill I sponsored titled the 'Stop Illegal Steel Trade Act' to impose a freeze on steel imports. The U.S. House of Representatives passed it 289 to 141, but the measure was subsequently defeated in the Senate on a procedural vote.

But the determined President Becker didn't stop fighting to save American steelworkers' jobs and the industry. He supported H.R. 808, the Steel Revitalization Act of 2001, to require a five year rollback of steel imports to pre-crisis levels, while providing assistance for retiree health care costs and establishing a \$10 billion loan fund to finance steel industry modernization.

The Steelworkers Union president didn't stop at the legislative door of Congress, leading a national union-industry petition under the U.S. Foreign Trade Act to implement a Section 201 tariff on all steel imports that included a public hearing in my Congressional District of Northwest Indiana by the International Trade Commission. The ITC's investigation demonstrated the need for steel tariffs and President Bush implemented relief in 2002.

George Becker, a second-generation steelworker, rose through the ranks to become the sixth international president of the United Steelworkers (USW). He served seven years as the union's international president, elected in 1993 and 1997. He also was chair of the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy for the U.S. Department of Labor; during the Clinton Administration, he served on the President's Export Council and the U.S. Trade & Environmental Policy Advisory Committee.

He is a respected union organizer and strategist, and an internationally-known spokesman for industrial safety, workers' rights on the job and fair global trade.

Among his major accomplishments are:

Mergers with the United Rubber Workers (URW) in 1995, and the Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers (ABG) in 1997, bringing 140,000 new members to the USW.

Launching the union's pioneering national Rapid Response Network to mobilize members and their local unions to personally contact their members of Congress and state legislatures with handwritten letters on bread & butter issues.

Establishing a USW Legislative Leadership Program in Washington, D.C., which provides member-activists with training in lobbying and political action.

On February 28, 2001, George Becker joined the ranks of one of the Labor Movement's more formidable legacies. He became

only the sixth past President of the United Steelworkers.

Born within a few yards of the Granite City Steel Mill in Illinois where he went to work at age 15, he lived and loved the life of a steelworker from his first day in an open hearth labor gang to the last day he served as International President.

His service to his country included a stint in the U.S. Marines toward the end of World War II and again during the Korean War, when he was drafted into the U.S. Army, owing to a critical shortage of light weapons infantry leaders.

USW President Becker is enjoying his 55th wedding anniversary this year with his wife Jane that began when he met her in the Ozarks of Missouri. They have three married sons and 14 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending George Becker for his outstanding contributions to his union and his country. His commitment to improving the quality of life for working people everywhere is unparalleled, and he should be recognized and commended.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN R. HUGHES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American, Allen R. Hughes, who will celebrate his 97th birthday on September 24, 2006.

Allen Hughes was born in Martinsburg, Missouri. His mother Ethel had a wonderful sense of humor and he loved her very deeply. His father William was a street car operator who purchased a 144 acre farm in Fulton, Missouri, which his boys affectionately named "Hughes' Rock Farm" because it appeared to be the main crop. Allen had three sisters and four brothers and the family was of modest means.

Allen Hughes married Florence Mertz in 1930. They were married for 59 years until Florence's death and they had one child Richard, born in 1937.

Allen Hughes is a 32nd degree Mason and has been a Scottish Rite member since 1936, over 69 years. He still goes to Lodge and actively participates in the Masonic Order. Mr. Hughes is a registered Democrat who has been known to occasionally stray from his party. The first time he voted was in the Presidential election of 1932. He cast his vote for FDR all four times and has never missed voting in a Presidential or off-year election since. Mr. Hughes has the highest regard for President Harry S. Truman and a profound respect for the Office of President regardless of who occupies it. His son Richard knows this first hand and has the scars to prove that if you can't say something respectful about the President, you shouldn't say anything at all. A true patriot, he takes the privilege of voting very seriously.

Allen Hughes began his career with the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company and worked as a night supervisor for Bi-State Transit in St. Louis, Missouri for 28 years. He retired in 1971 and now lives with his second wife, Sue Harness, on her farm close to Troy, Missouri.

Allen Hughes' son Richard speaks eloquently about his father; "What I love about my father is his humor, his work ethic (I think he missed less than three weeks of work due to sickness in 46 years), his honesty (his word is his bond), his generosity and his willingness to help others less fortunate than himself, his patriotism . . . he votes, informs himself and loves this country." Richard tells me, "If I could go to the 'Father Store' and pick any father, I would pick Allen R. Hughes."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a national treasure and an exemplary American. As Allen Hughes celebrates his 97th birthday, we extend to him our best wishes as well as our gratitude for all he's done for our country. He is a true patriot, a loving husband and the best father in the world to his great son Richard. Because of solid citizens like Allen Hughes, our democracy is strong and our country is decent.

INCLUDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR LIBERIA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has opened a new chapter in Africa's history as its first female head-of-state. Her election marks a turning point for Liberia, a long-time ally of the United States, which has recently been debilitated by war, corruption, and civil strife. I met with President Sirleaf in Liberia three weeks ago and I know she has the skills and vision it will take to rebuild Liberia and bring hope to its people.

In her inaugural speech, President Sirleaf promised to give Liberian women "prominence in all affairs of our country." The 21st Century could well be the century of the woman, not only in Liberia, but around the world. In the past year, first female heads of state were elected in Liberia, Chile, and Germany, and Finland re-elected its first female president. A recent U.S. poll showed that 92 percent of Americans are ready to elect a female president. But for now, Liberia is a step ahead of the United States.

The U.S. and Liberia have long shared close ties, dating back to 1819, when Congress appropriated \$100,000 that helped lead to the founding of the country. The end of Liberia's civil war and President Sirleaf's election present a unique opportunity to maximize the close ties between our countries.

I support Congressman JESSE JACKSON and Chairman JIM CLYBURN's call to include appropriations for Liberia in the President's supplemental request. President Bush has committed to spreading democracy around the world. This is a unique opportunity to build a democracy in a nation that is starting anew. Rewarding Liberia for its democratic progress would send the right signal to other African nations.

President Sirleaf still faces many challenges and will need our support to succeed. Despite its small gross national income, Liberia has \$2.56 billion in outstanding international debt. HIV/AIDS is spreading at an increasing rate and 708,000 Liberians, just under a third of the population, receive food assistance each month. U.S. assistance to Liberia has decreased in recent years; it will have to in-

crease for President Sirleaf to meet these humanitarian needs.

President Sirleaf will also need help building democracy. Consolidating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2003 and pursuing transitional justice against war criminals remain immediate priorities. The U.S. should offer its diplomatic backing to encourage other states in the region to help Liberia find resolution.

In her inaugural address, President Sirleaf committed to a new era of democracy, economic renewal, and good governance for Liberia. Upon her second state visit to the United States, we welcome President Sirleaf and offer our support for her mission to lead Liberia to better times.

CONGRATULATING GENEVIEVE AGUILAR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to honor and congratulate an outstanding young woman in my district who has recently been recognized as one of the top youth volunteers in Colorado for 2006. Genevieve Aguilar of Boulder was recently honored as a Distinguished Finalist for the 11th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award, an honor bestowed on the most active and dedicated young volunteers in the state.

Genevieve was honored this year for her work as a tutor and mentor for young Hispanic students. At the age of seventeen, this young woman finds the time to teach other students organizational and study skills so that they can achieve success in high school and beyond. This selflessness is made all the more remarkable by the fact that Genevieve is making her way through Boulder High School herself and undoubtedly faces all of the same pressures that every other student faces. Despite these pressures, and through her steady devotion to her community and her fellow students, Genevieve is able to teach us all a lesson in humanity, service, and volunteerism.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were designed to "emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities." I can think of no better way to honor the work that Genevieve has done to help her fellow students learn and grow, and I am sure that her example serves to inspire those students to give back to their communities in kind. I look forward to seeing what Genevieve Aguilar accomplishes in the future, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring her accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN JORDAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Helen Jordan, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding